

APPENDIX B – Public Comments



Public Meeting
COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Beth Graham Telephone 662-840-0059

Address 1959 Valley Rd

City Tupelo State Ms Zip 38801

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: overpass at Crosstown
cost and less disruption of homeowners & businesses
along other routes

Issues and/or concerns about the project: COST

Recommendations for the project: _____

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

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E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name JACK + SANDRA DILLARD Telephone 662-844-1846

Address 981 Mt Vernon Rd

City Tupelo State Ms Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☒ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Leave railroad where
it has been for past 100 years - Tupelo has built
around it.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: going through good farm
land - too close to several new subdivisions -
will lower value of land around it -

Recommendations for the project: make overpass at Crosstown

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name George Adams Telephone 662-
Address 520 Jackson St
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☒ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: I would rather ^{sherman} the rails run south because you're moving straight thru a pristine area.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: There's a spring under that land (aquifer) that is a national treasure. The oil will ruin the water.

Recommendations for the project: Decide and move to the south west.

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name PHILIP GRAMM Telephone 662-840-0059
Address 1959 VAILEY ROAD
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38801

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: OVER PASS & CROSS TOWN - COST

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Cost

Recommendations for the project: _____

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name CARLYLE S. HARRIS Telephone 844 8796
Address 1314 PINECREST DR.
City TUPELO State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: I recommend C, E, or F. All of these cross the KCS line. Enough right of way should be purchased for C, E or F to accommodate moving KCS on the same ROW in the future. Should it ever be desirable (50 or more years) to move KCS out of Tupelo this would

Issues and/or concerns about the project: provide room to do so. if done, KCS could then join its existing ROW some where between Verona and Shannon (a short distance). This latter movement of KCS would make its existing ROW in Tupelo

Recommendations for the project: available to extend Front Street south from Main St. following the old FCS ROW to intersect Carson Blvd. -- a much needed North South artery.

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Joan Blackwell Telephone 842-7223
Address 635 Magnolia Drive,
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Alternative B. It gets the railroad as far away as possible.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Environmental & cost. It may cost more initially, but I believe that it will save money in the long run. We need a long term solution.

Recommendations for the project: _____

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Ernie Joyner Telephone 662-842-5058

Address 2317 Pare Monceau

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Western Alternative B
Seems to interfere less with developed areas

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Cost

Recommendations for the project: _____

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E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Andy Parker Telephone 841-2530

Address 1225A Rd 811

City Satellite State MS Zip 38806

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Alternative C+D

Issues and/or concerns about the project: _____

Recommendations for the project: Construct a public Train Viewing
Location Somewhere. You might be surprised at Response

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Tammy Allred Telephone 842-6376

Address 104 CR 1760

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

mailing P.O. Box 354 Belden MS 38826-0354

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: _____

any route but not Sherman

Issues and/or concerns about the project: I lived by a railroad off Colonial Estates for 9 years. I moved out here to get away from the trains. We don't want the train to be placed out here near Sherman, there should be another good path for the train, it would not help our subdivisions at all.

Recommendations for the project: You definitely need to find another route for the trains. I don't want to be any closer to a train, than I am right now. I have great concerns about the speeds of the trains and my personal items in my house that shake and rattle when the train comes speeding by our old house. Move the train else where.

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www.goMDOT.com

Name Margaret M. Gratz Telephone 662-844-5649

Address 3675 Old Town Circle

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: The land these alternative routes would traverse is beautiful farmland and would defile the beauty of the scenic Natchez Trace Parkway and would contribute to urban sprawl.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: This is a very costly project, and one that I deem is unnecessary. To spend millions and millions of the taxpayers' money just so a few are not inconvenienced is foolish. We are currently involved in a costly war that is going to be prolonged, and the Southern half of Mississippi is still trying to rebuild after one of the most devastating natural disasters to ever hit our country. How can we afford such an exorbitant project at this time in our history?

With rising gas prices, which is inevitable, the cities with a public transit system will be the only ones to survive.

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Rita Vinson Telephone (662) 842-6985

Address 401 Road 183

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38801

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: I think the street of
Western should be moved over the
railroad especially at Crossman

Issues and/or concerns about the project: The railroad would
kill our community land value if it
is routed through here.

Recommendations for the project: _____

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E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Wynne S. Rutherford Telephone 662-844-7734

Address 123 CR 1740

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: The western-most rerouting - starting
at /near Sherman/Blue Spring and running down the western side
of Lee Co. and rejoining near Sherman

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Do not build Alternate routes that go
through or near developed or developing neighborhoods; you will only
duplicate the problems associated with the existing through-town route.

Recommendations for the project: The best way to do it is to use existing
US 78 & US 75 ROW plus add ROW and create a multi-lane
corridor.

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Bobby + Cheryl McNeal Telephone (662) 842-3663

Address 577 CR 183

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☒ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No
If no, what time of day and where?
Notice of Date Time,
+ Place (Evenings Preferred)
(2 wks. min advance notice)
prior to meetings

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Was unable to attend meeting
as information was received too late! Also, this flyer
only showed a date - where's the time + location??
Future Meetings should require a 2-wk notice (min.)
to residents of the proposed area

Issues and/or concerns about the project: ① We have recently purchased our home
and would not be happy to have the railroad relocated closer.
We already bear the railway and neither was disclosed at
escrow closing. ② Devalue property. ③ Noise pollution

Recommendations for the project: Relocate Railroad in an unpopulated
non-residential area. Unfamiliar with best place to locate
it as this information (alternatives) was not
provided.

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Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Jimmy + Doretha Franks Telephone 662-842-0592

Address 162 CR 159

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: _____

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Our concern is Alignment C - We
do not want this in our neighborhood!

Recommendations for the project: Leave it like it is or route it
thru open agricultural land.

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Tom Tindall Telephone 662-844-5569

Address 309 CR 183

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: _____

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Tupelo embraced the RR years ago,
built around it knowing that in the future it would become a
problem. Now they want the people in the county to give up their
land to solve a problem that has a simple solution.

Recommendations for the project: Build a four lane overpass on Glaster
St. or leave it like it is and install automatic baracodes
with a four lane overpass, main st. traffic can make a few
turns on side streets go over the overpass make three more turns
& be back on main. Two signals a few blocks east & west of cross town
could serve as a warning that a train is crossing. Plan ahead.

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Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Mitchell Lesser Telephone 662-842-7528

Address 323 CR 183

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☒ Other by someone
who attended

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: _____

Keep in current position
have one to go over
I go under

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Tupelo allowed itself to put itself
in this position, but then going on
for 40 yrs or more. County should
not be held responsible for this

Recommendations for the project: Expand 100 m. present location
instead of spending 300 Million
for other location

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Wilson Long Telephone 662 842 6110
Address 224 CR 1740
City Tupelo State Ms Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Present location or
Alignment A

Issues and/or concerns about the project: clown property that would
come to the other Alignments B, C, D, E

Recommendations for the project: I feel the R/R should be left as
is. Tupelo was built around the R/R and the
expense to move is not worth the benefit.

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Louise S. Vinson Telephone 842-6030
Address 454 Road 1740
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Didn't hear til it was over!

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: I do not like the proposal
"Alignment C". It seems to me that laying all the
new track, building trestles, etc. would cost too much.
Leave the tracks where they are & run street
over them or under them.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Property values will go down
immediately with tracks near property.

Recommendations for the project: Leave it in the Tupelo City
Limits!

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Walter Woody Telephone 601 898 3412

Address 150 Rd 1790

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☒ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No
If no, what time of day and where?

Weekends

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why:

In Tupelo city limit alternatives are best
since that is where the Railroad and
the problems exist in non-residential section.

Issues and/or concerns about the project:

concerned about destruction of current/future
Residential property & values of same
in an area of prime residential development
potential needed for this area desperately.

Recommendations for the project:

Keep railroad solutions
within the city where problem exists
Don't compound the problem by moving elsewhere
to create new problems.

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Joseph Brouillette Telephone 662-690-1943

Address 453 road 183

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other Friend

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: A

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Economic impact on the
community. Property value.

Recommendations for the project: Take Route with less population.

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Mike Thompson Telephone 891-0878
Address 390 HWY 178
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: The moving of the switching yard to South Tupelo. @ Alternative Alignment A;

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Spending tax dollars for convenience instead of need. Has anyone been to our Gulf coast?

Recommendations for the project: _____

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name J.K. Wilson Telephone (662) 680-9934
Address 215 ROAD 1836
City TUPELO State MS Zip 38804-7052

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☒ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Can only comment on the one proposed railroad relocation route I saw, affecting Hwy 178 + eastward between Belden & Sherman. That proposed route cuts across my neighborhood. Definitely opposed to this route.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: My major concerns are the loss of peace & tranquility of our homes & the devaluation of property. Who would buy SFR properties to live next to a railroad track? NOT ME. In the winter when all the leaves are gone, awakened nightly by the noise from trains.

Recommendations for the project: As people & traffic increases, why not do what many cities do & relocate the tracks underground? It wouldn't interrupt or delay anyone, especially emergency personnel. In my way of thinking there are only 3 options: 1) Go over the tracks 2) Go under the tracks 3) Move the tracks. Recommend put the tracks underground.

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Public Meeting
COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Lisa Brisco Telephone 662-231-2789
Address P O Box 2882 (County Road 183)
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38803

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No
If no, what time of day and where?

Should have been advertised more. I felt like you were trying to keep it quiet.

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: The in town options. The railroad has always been there and I feel that we need to do whatever we can to improve it in its current location.

Issues and/or concerns about the project:

Disruption in Quality of Life and Devastation to property value. In September 2001, my husband and I purchased our property for \$8,000/acre and in preparation of building our home have invested a great deal more. What do you think it will be worth with a railroad next to it?

Recommendations for the project:

Keep the railroad in town and give more thought to either sinking the highway or the tracks.

The in town alternatives seem to be the best options.
Lisa M. Brisco

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Public Meeting
COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Katie Thompson Telephone 662-401-5131
Address 390 Hwy 178
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☒ Other Mr. Brisco

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: ① The operational re-location of the existing yard. ② Alignment A would be my second choice.

Issues and/or concerns about the project:

-The destroying of property values and opportunities if any of the other alignments are chosen.
-The spending of tax dollars on this much work.

Recommendations for the project:

Cancel it, and Re-build the Gulf Coast of Mississippi.

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Public Meeting
COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

Name Aileene Brisco Telephone 662-842-0482
Address 490 Hwy 178
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No
If no, what time of day and where?

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Any of the in town
Alternatives.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: I have many concerns with the primary
one being the immediate and severe depreciation to the
value of my home and the surrounding acreage. This
area of the county is a rapidly appreciating residential
community.

Recommendations for the project: Leave the railroad where it is and use the in
town alternatives. In the county alternatives, the devastation to the
property values must be taken into consideration and quantified
in the study. Has a below grade railroad corridor
been considered? If not, I would like to know why not?

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Public Meeting
COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

Name LAWRENCE BRISCO Telephone 662-401-1334
Address PO BOX 2882
City TUPELO State MS Zip 38803

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?
JUST NEED TO EXTEND
TIME UNTIL 8 PM

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: I BELIEVE THE IN-TOWN
ALTERNATIVES ARE THE ONLY ONES TO CONSIDER.
THEY WOULD SOLVE 90% OF THE PROBLEM FOR THE
LOWEST TAXPAYER DOLLARS AND THE LEAST COST
IN DAMAGES TO EVERYONE INVOLVED.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: MY FAMILY OWNS 62 ACRES OF PRIME
RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY IN THE COUNTY. FOUR OF THE FIVE COUNTY
ROUTES GO THROUGH THIS LAND. THIS WOULD RESULT IN SEVERE
AND IMMEDIATE DESTRUCTION OF THE VALUE OF THIS LAND.
NO ONE WILL MOVE INTO THE COUNTY AND BUILD OR BUY
A HOME NEXT TO A RAILROAD.

Recommendations for the project: WE SHOULD IMPROVE CROSSTOWN WITH ONE
OF THE IN-TOWN ALTERNATIVES. THE DESTRUCTION OF
COUNTY PROPERTY VALUES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE COUNTY
ALTERNATIVES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AND QUANTIFIED IN
THE STUDY. THIS IS THE MAIN ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR IN THE
PROPOSED COUNTY AND MUST BE CONSIDERED.

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Public Meeting
COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Dwayne Garner Telephone 662-844 7065
Address 193 RD 1758
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☒ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Where Does it come
by our house exactly

Issues and/or concerns about the project: property value

Recommendations for the project: Train Tunnel at cross town

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August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Garner Millwork + cabinets LLC Telephone 662-844 7007
Address 177A Tupelo MS
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☒ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: WAS not shown ALL
MAPS

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Our Business + Employee

Recommendations for the project: Leave it Alone

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Public Meeting
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August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name _____ Telephone (662) 841-1992

Address  Charles Dawson
PO Box 282

City _____ Belden, MS 38826-0282 State _____ Zip _____

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: _____

It appears that Alignment C relocation
would put the tracks in my front yard on Leavelle Rd
I do not like that one.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: _____

Recommendations for the project: Let the RR pay not the taxpayers.

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August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Wilson Casey Telephone 662-844-0850

Address 467 Road 183

City Tupelo State Ms Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: I do not like any of the

plans because I think it is fine like it is. The railroad
is part of Tupelo's history

Issues and/or concerns about the project: I think it is ridiculous that so
much money has been spent to even do the survey for this.
when it is not necessary.

Recommendations for the project: Discontinue the project totally.

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Public Meeting
COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Salli Long Telephone 662-8426110
Address 224 C.R. 1740
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why:

Present location or
Alignment A

Issues and/or concerns about the project:

C town property that would
come thru the other Alignments B, C, D, E.

Recommendations for the project:

I feel the R/R's should be left
as is. Tupelo was built around the R/R's
and the expense to move is not worth the
benefit.

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August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name LEE CALDWELL Telephone 255-7777
Address 388 Hwy 178
City TUPELO State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☒ Other Word of Mouth
From Affected Landowners

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No
If no, what time of day and where?

EVENING - SAME LOCATION

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why:

In Town Alt. 2 / Operational Plan
I don't know, if In Town Alt. 2 includes Operation Plan or if it is separate.
Both together make the most sense. (1) Least affecting property with growing
value or immediate plans for development or renovation. (2) A reasonable cost solution
that corrects the greatest problems with least amount of disruption.

Issues and/or concerns about the project:

All North route plans are absurd. Cost way
out of line vs. solution. Way too many people, way too much valuable property affected.
Property affected from North Tupelo over to Sherman connection is extremely desirable,
extremely valuable for future residential development. R/R would destroy this. South route
would be better, if bypass is chosen, but still seems absurd considering cost and
creation of many new at grade conflicts.

Recommendations for the project:

Concentrate on combination Operational Plan / In Town
Alt. 2. It is doable at reasonable cost & provides most solution vs creation
of minor disruptions to fewest businesses and residences. Also, county voters cannot claim
that Tupelo is dumping it's problem on the county. If we spend 700-800 million\$
on this R/R project, then we have no right to complain about all the other port projects
in other areas of the U.S.

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COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name LARRY SALMON Telephone 662-840-8435

Address 2729 VALLEY Rd.

City TUPELO State MS Zip 38801-0631

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Do nothing because the cost
wouldn't be worth the benefit.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Re-location would cause safety problems
and noise problems to people who would not benefit from
re-location. Re-location would damage natural resources
and farm land.

Recommendations for the project: _____

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Public Meeting
COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Sean Towery Telephone 842-4184

Address 1703 OAKVIEW CIR

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: _____
1. LEAVE TRACK WHERE IS, BUT USE BRIDGES - EVERYONE WILL BE HAPPY, CHEAP
2. Pontotoc Route - LEAST RESISTANCE

Issues and/or concerns about the project: NEW ROUTE WILL LOWER PROPERTY VALUE
AND MAKE EVERYONE SORRY THEY BUILT A HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY
TO GET AWAY FROM NOISE

Recommendations for the project: LEAVE IT AS IS, BUILD SMALL
BRIDGES NEAR CROSSTOWN, SOME MATERIAL WILL SEE IT IN TIME, SOME WANT
USE SAVINGS FOR WALKING PARK, FERRIS WHEEL AT BARNES CROSSING.

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COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Susan Thompson Telephone 662 841 0032

Address 3910 Hwy 178 W

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: _____

The Operational re-locating of the existing yard

Issues and/or concerns about the project: The cost. Declining of home

Value — go fix the Gulf Coast!!

Recommendations for the project: Look again at the growth

patterns in Tupelo — nothing is
going on in South Tupelo!

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PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Vicki Housley Telephone 842-8766

Address 101 Edgewater Cove

City Belden State MS Zip 38826

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

need evening time later

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: _____

Issues and/or concerns about the project: just not route B

Recommendations for the project: _____

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August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Lamar Hunter Telephone 662-842-2248

Address 630 Hwy 178 West

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Alternate B.
I think it goes through the least congestive areas. It
would be located on the least expensive land to purchase
for right of way. The switch yard needs to be moved
South of town.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Cost

Recommendations for the project: Use Alternate B - or build bypass
at Crestown. With either plan I recommend moving
switch yard South of town.

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August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name JERRY PENDLETON Telephone 662-680-4054

Address 109 W Shore Dr

City Saltville State MS Zip 38866

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: _____

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Alternative D will adversely impact
3-4 subdivisions, the only alternative to do so. It will
also adversely impact the Natchez Trace Parkway in an area
that will also be impacted by Cold River. It will adversely
impact the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail. Alt D
may impact the greatest number of homeowners
Recommendations for the project: in Lee Co. It is in the area of greatest
residential growth. The impact to adjacent landowners
should be staggering. Recommendation - Not Alt. D.
Beck Springs Road is a major connector for residents in New
Lee Co/Saltville Barnes Crossing and the Parkway. Alt
will adversely impact this road as well.

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PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

Name Gale Henderson Telephone 662-566-7530

Address 144 Rd. 784

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38801

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

PS. If plan B is used, please straighten the route where it dips in toward Palmetto. Why don't it dip?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

Please do not choose alternative B, on the west side. The preliminary alternative you like best and why:

Most cities would have built an overpass 25 years ago.

I would prefer alternatives that are not Plan B.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Noise + property devaluations
Five months ago after living in Tupelo for 27 yrs. (where we heard the train) from 2-3 miles away at Crosstown during the night, we moved just out of town in the Palmetto community. We paid a top price to get the location

Recommendations for the project: and lot we wanted. Likely, we or our children cannot re-sell for what we paid; we love quiet country life - as do the other residents of Trace Oaks and those who have chosen the country. We did not want the

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PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

Name RALPH HENDERSON Telephone 566-7530

Address 144 ROAD 784

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38801

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: OVERPASS OR TUNNEL

AT CROSSTOWN

Issues and/or concerns about the project: I DO NOT WANT PLAN B.

IT WILL DEVALUE OUR HOUSE + PROPERTY

Recommendations for the project: DO NOT DO PLAN B.

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August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Malcolm Harden Telephone 662-566-7558
Address 297 Road 684
City Tupelo, MS 38801 State MS Zip 38801

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: The existing railroad route should be tweaked.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: I have lived all my adult life in the southern part of Lee County. I would like to spend my remaining years of life in a quiet community. The train would make life intolerable where I live.

Recommendations for the project: I would like the train tracks to remain where they are located through Tupelo.

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PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Buffy Chappell Telephone 662-844-9615
Address 2016 Strain St.
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: I support the alternative which will cost the least money...which is, according to the Daily Journal "to tweak the existing railroad route to improve efficiency." I've lived in Tupelo all my life (58 years) and cross the intersection at "Crosstown" multiple times daily...waiting 15 minutes once or twice a week is NOT A BIG DEAL!

Issues and/or concerns about the project: I DO NOT SUPPORT THE FOUR PROPOSED ROUTES WHICH WILL DESTROY THE CHARACTER OF WELL ESTABLISHED NW LEE COUNTY RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS BETWEEN BELDEN AND SHERMAN RESULTING IN HUGE LOSS OF PROPERTY VALUE AND CAUSING TREMENDOUS EMOTIONAL STRESS TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED AREA.

Recommendations for the project: IN ADDITION, I THINK IT IS MORALLY IRRESPONSIBLE (IF NOT OBSCENE) TO SPEND 70 TO 750 MILLION DOLLARS TO RELOCATE A MERELY INCONVENIENT RAIL TRACK WHILE SO MANY MISSISSIPPIANS ARE STILL LIVING IN FEMA TRAILERS AND DRIVING ON HEAVILY DAMAGED ROADS ON THE GULF COAST!

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

From: Ann Downing [adowning@mindspring.com]
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2006 9:40 AM
To: Environmental_Comments
Subject: Tupelo Railroad Relocation Study comments

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why:
*I strongly suggest that **Alternative B** be given the highest priority. Alternatives C, D, E, and F all cross the northwest section of Lee County where significant residential development is in progress. Alternative B skirts farther to the west where there is a sparser population.*

Issues and/or concerns about the project:
The addition of another railroad in the areas of Alternatives C, D, and F will have serious negative impact on both the existing residents and continued development in this area. As a landowner in the area north of Belden, I am concerned about my investment and the interruption to the current quiet lifestyle we enjoy.

Recommendations for the project:

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING
I was unable to attend the meeting but I sincerely hope you will consider my concerns.

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

Submitted by
Ann Heard Downing
129 Road 1740
Tupelo, MS 38804

From: salmon0102@bellsouth.net
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2006 5:08 PM
To: Environmental_Comments
Subject: Comments on Tupelo Rail Relocation

The alternative I like best, although I did not see it listed at the public meeting, is to do nothing. The alternative I like second best would be Alternative G (construct a new switching yard southeast of downtown Tupelo).

Issues and concerns: I did not find any information at the public meeting indicating the cost of doing nothing compared to the cost of relocation or reconstruction which will certainly be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. I am not convinced that there is a major problem, at least not one that warrants a solution that costs hundreds of millions of dollars. I am concerned about the relocation of the noise, traffic delays, reduced property values and grade crossing dangers to a group of people that will ultimately have no recourse when their property is acquired through the eminent domain process.

Recommendations: This is Tupelo's problem. Implement the least expensive solution within the city limits of Tupelo.



Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Michael S. Cook Telephone 810-7534

Address 655 CR. 183

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☒ Other Friend

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: I don't like any of them

Issues and/or concerns about the project: The cost is one concern. I think the money could be used for other better things.

The Railroad would lower the value of our homes & property

Recommendations for the project: Leave it like it is or Build an Overpass. The Railroad has been at Cross Town for years. It is a part of Tupelo. I really don't see it as a problem.

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us



Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Bruce E Porter Telephone 662-690-9163 (H)

Address 141 County Road 1836 662-841-8830 / 8831 (W)

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☒ Flyer
☒ Other Neighbors

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No
If no, what time of day and where?

after 9pm or on Sundays
I work long hours

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Given the number of houses and people adversely affected by all of the proposals except the single proposal that runs south out of sherman then east to plantersville, the only reasonable proposal that will not ruin my property value if not take my land, is that single route - truly the only one that makes any sense.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Any of the four Routes that run north then west or east than south (depending on where you start) will ruin not just impact my land and home. I propose we run the train through your back yard and see how you like it - but only after we spend millions of taxpayers dollars to wreck thousands of acres and hundreds of homes

Recommendations for the project: Go south out of sherman - through the fields - by the land from the Hancocks or from whatever dynasty owns it - and leave the rest of us alone - we moved into the country for the peace and quiet but sure enough, leave it to the government to find a way to ruin that - all the while passing our taxes. This is a "no-brainer" - there is only one sensible, realistic route and that is south out of sherman then east to plantersville.

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us



Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Bill Williams Telephone 662-869-5431

Address PO Box 1426

City Saltville State MS Zip 38866

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☒ Other Letter from MDOT

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Alternative B - Most rural.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: 40 Trains/day through the City of Saltville - Not desirable for our city.

Recommendations for the project:

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

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Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name BILL CHERRY Telephone 662-869-5121

Address 143 SCOTLAND DR

City SALTILLO MISS 38866 State _____ Zip _____

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☒ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: ALT B - BECAUSE IT
WILL HAVE LESS IMPACT ON THE AREA
THAT ARE LESS POPULATION

Issues and/or concerns about the project: _____

Recommendations for the project: I BELIEVE ALT B WILL BE
THE BEST ROUTE FOR ALL CONCERN

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us



Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Torrent, Stephen Telephone _____

Address 1004 Van Buren

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38801

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: ^{request} Need blow up of presentation (aerial)
local map, intermediate
& macro line map for best input from Engineer (logistic)

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Increased revenue / funding ✓
traffic

Recommendations for the project: Pursue w/n operational perimeters until
money pools to fund 'committee' etc

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us



Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Dick Hill Telephone 844-1330

Address 2108 Daugherty

City Tupelo State Ms Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☒ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Southward corridor
impacts the fewest number of people & provides
best sites for future industrial growth

Issues and/or concerns about the project: # of trains - length of trains
2030- and beyond

Recommendations for the project: Hurry

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

August 18, 2006

Mr. Wayne Parrish
MDOT
401 N West St.
Jackson, MS 39201

Mr. Parrish,

Please see the enclosed copies of a 2.1 mile double track railroad channel in Reno Nevada. The final costs in 2001 ended at 279 million dollars. I would think that Tupelo would only need about a one mile single track channel at the most and which might be within other alternate cost ranges.

I believe that a channel should be considered in the Tupelo Mississippi railroad study.
Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,



Lawrence Brisco
PO Box 2882
Tupelo, MS 38803


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Friday, August

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Other Documents

Reno Railroad Corridor Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

 [Record of Decision February 23, 2001](#)

[Final Environmental Impact Statement January 2001](#)

This document evaluates the environmental impacts associated with construction of railroad grade separation improvements in downtown Reno, Nevada, along the existing transcontinental Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) main line. The Reno Railroad Corridor project will eliminate at-grade conflicts in central Reno, which would have been exacerbated by increased rail traffic due to the recent merger of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroads. The merger presented an opportunity for an agreement to be developed between the UPRR and City of Reno to jointly fund and develop the project. In addition to the No Build Alternative, four build alternatives were considered: Depressed Trainway, Extended Depressed Trainway, Cover-and-Cut Tunnel, and Modified Extended Depressed Trainway. The Modified Extended Depressed Trainway has been identified as the preferred alternative. It consists of a fully grade-separated two-track main line railroad corridor, from a point approximately 250 feet west of West Se on the west end to approximately 50 feet west of Sutro Street on the east end. The corridor would become a depressed trainway descending at a 1.2 % grade on the west end and ascending at a 1.0 % grade on the east. The length of the is about 12,500 feet. The depressed trainway would be approximately 54 feet wide and 30 feet deep at its greatest. Second Street undercrossing would be eliminated. The costs shown in this FEIS are for the purposes of comparing and are not intended to be a detailed nor final estimate of costs.

[Draft Environmental Impact Statement May 2000](#)

Reno Railroad Corridor Technical Reports

In addition to the Reno Railroad Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in three volumes, a number of technical reports have been prepared as supporting documentation for the FEIS. These are some of the technical reports.

[Scoping Summary Report](#) (November 1999) prepared by Myra L. Frank & Associates, Inc. for the Nolte Team
[File Size: 59Mb PDF]

[Alternatives Screening Report](#) (December 1999) prepared by Myra L. Frank & Associates, Inc. for the Nolte Team
[File Size: 113Mb PDF]

[Geotechnical Engineering Report](#) (May 2000) prepared by Kleinfelder for the Nolte Associates, Inc. dated May 9, 2000

[Historic Railroad Building Treatment Report](#) (May 2000) prepared by Stantec Consulting for the Nolte Team

Reno Railroad Corridor Preliminary Engineering (PE)

Preliminary Engineering Project Plans

Peer Review Panel Meeting Notes (January 2001)

Notes from 4 Peer Review Meetings and one conference call. Notes include discussion on constructibility of approp and invert systems.

Underpinning Analysis Report of the Southern Pacific Railroad Passenger Depot (January 2001) prepared by Kleinf Nolte Associates, Inc. dated January 23, 2001

The Underpinning Report for the SPRR Passenger Depot including a description of the existing foundation type and available, dimensions; a discussion of typical and appropriate method or methods for underpinning, including appro: dimensions and depths of underpinning construction; and preliminary cost estimates for underpinning.

Underpinning Analysis Report of the Fitzgerald's Parking Garage (January 2001) prepared by Steven L. Hiatt, P.E., Nolte Associates, Inc. dated January 23, 2001

The Underpinning Report for the Fitzgerald's Garage includes text and a section showing the existing foundation. It presents two different underpinning types that may be used to support the garage with sketches depicting these cor methods. A recommended method is presented with relative construction costs for this recommendation.

Underpinning Analysis Report of the Rainbow Pedestrian Bridge (January 2001) prepared by Steven L. Hiatt, P.E., Nolte Associates, Inc. dated January 23, 2001

The Underpinning Report for the Rainbow Pedestrian Bridge includes a description of the existing foundation type a available, dimensions; a discussion of typical and appropriate method or methods for underpinning, including appro: dimensions and depths of underpinning construction; and preliminary cost estimates for underpinning.

Alternative Wall and Invert Report (January 2001) prepared by Steven L. Hiatt, P.E., S.E. for Nolte Associates, Inc. January 23, 2001

The Alternative Wall and Invert report addresses wall and invert systems, the close proximity of UP operations to w; other agency comments. The final report combines both the Draft Wall Report and the Draft Invert Report.

Bridge Report (January 2001) prepared by Kleinfelder for Nolte Associates, Inc. dated January 23, 2001

The Bridge Report consists of geotechnical parameters for bridge design. Parameters for vehicular bridges are prov pages 53 through 55 of the Geotechnical Report.

Bridge Analysis Report (January 2001) prepared by Steven L. Hiatt, P.E., S.E. for Nolte Associates, Inc. dated Janu 2001

The Bridge Analysis Report describes each of the seven superstructure alternatives, address pros and cons of the e with respect to superstructure depth, construction costs, construction duration, flexibility in construction staging, ove construction impacts on the remainder of the project, ability to support utilities, and long term maintenance. The repi recommends a superstructure type.

Rights-of-Way: A Preliminary Valuation Analysis (limited Summary Appraisal) of Various Properties (January 2001) by Johnson-Perkins & Associates, Inc. for Stantec Consulting Inc. dated January 19, 2001

In support of the right-of-way appraisal process, approximate areas of permanent and temporary impacts were calci along the corridor for Alternative 5 and are presented. Digital parcel information based on the Washoe County GIS v obtained from the City of Reno. This data was registered and adjusted against the orthophotography to produce a v consistent representation of the project area and along the corridor. Utilizing these maps and Washoe County Asse: Office records, the appraiser identified subject properties and provide basic physical data such as building areas, condition and areas and zoning for each parcel.

Means and Methods Analysis Report (January 2001) prepared by Steven L. Hiatt, P.E., S.E. for Nolte Associates, Inc. January 23, 2001

A report summarizing the logic of the selection of the sequences, means and methods of construction is provided to

basis for construction schedule and staging . Railroad Construction Staging – Preliminary railroad connection alignment "cut-over" drawings are provided for each end of each shoofly and the main line track cut-overs.

Reno Railroad Corridor Cost Estimate

[Cost Estimates](#) (January 2001) prepared by Leroy Saage, P.E. for Nolte Associates, inc. dated January 23, 2001
Quantity calculations were prepared on the major items of work and then preliminary cost estimates were assigned these items. Estimates are separated into quantities and costs and displayed in a bid list. Unit costs are attached to items.

Real Estate

[Acquiring Real Property for Federal and Federal-Aid Programs and Projects](#)

[Your Rights and Benefits as a Displaced Person](#)

ReTRAC

[Final - Proposed ReTRAC Project "Plan" - May 7, 1999](#)

This is the City of Reno's initial plan submitted to FHWA in the summer of 1999. Please see Alternative 5 in the [Final Environmental Impact Statement](#) for the City's current proposed project.

Other Documents

Also...[Available Documents related to the ReTRAC Project](#) [File Size:135Kb PDF]

In an attempt to provided all interested parties complete access to public domain documents related to the ReTRAC the City of Reno has compiled a list of relevant public domain documents. The documents are all in the public domain and be available from other sources. The City of Reno has made each of these documents available through an outside See this link for further details.



City of Reno, Nevada
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Project Fact Sheet



Reno Transportation Rail Access Corridor (ReTRAC)

Reno, NV

Approved FY 2001

Project Sponsor

Retired: Paid in Full

<http://www.cityofreno.com/gov/retrac/>

City of Reno, Nevada.

Description

This project involves a 2.25-mile below-grade rail freight corridor with two mainline tracks and an access road, replacement of 10 at-grade rail crossings with bridges, and construction of one new bridge. A "shoofly" track served as a temporary bypass route during construction.

Reno is situated in a major rail corridor linking west coast ports, especially the Port of Oakland, to inland destinations. The Union Pacific Railroad is expected to increase train traffic through central Reno from 14 trains to at least 24 trains per day. The project allows Union Pacific to improve freight capacity by increasing train lengths to 8,000 feet with double-stacked containers.

Project Status

The trench opened to train service on November 18, 2005. Using a design/build contractor, Reno completed the entire project in the spring of 2006.

Funding Sources

Anticipated funding sources are as follows (dollars in millions):

• Senior bond proceeds:	\$111.5 [†]
• TIFIA direct loan:	50.5
• Federal grants:	21.3
• Railroad payment:	17.0
• Other:	79.6 ^{**}

Total:

279.9

** (includes cash on hand and interest earnings)

The original TIFIA commitment amounted to \$73.5 million, comprised of three separate obligations:

- The sales and room tax loan closed in 2002 and was funded in 2004. Negotiations concluded in 2005 on the assessment district loan, although litigation prevented its closing. Recently, Reno indicated it will not proceed with either of the two smaller loans.

With revenues securing the \$50.5 million sales and room tax loan performing as projected, the City repaid the original \$50.5 million loan with interest in May 2006.

This page last modified on August 17, 2006

<http://tiffa.fhwa.dot.gov/fs9.htm>



Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Perry Whitaker Telephone 662-680-9052Address 839 Mt. Vernon Rd.City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No
 If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Leave the railroad in the current location. There must be more beneficial and cost effective ways to spend public money than moving a railroad.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: I do not see any benefits from the program other than improving traffic flow in Tupelo. Also, 4 of the 5 proposals bring the railroad through property that has been in my family for 80+ years. This will decrease my property values and change the lay of the land for something that I do not see as benefitting the greater good.

Recommendations for the project: move the switching yard out of Tupelo. Move it toward Belden + Sherman or toward Nettleton. ~~the~~ The same trains come through Nettleton at full-speed. Slow them down that way with a new switching yard.



Public Meeting
COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Diane Flowers Telephone 680-7194
Address 155 CR 1758
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☒ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☐ Yes ☒ No
If no, what time of day and where?
I missed this meeting

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: Alternative B - because it circles the city in a wider range allowing for future growth - not as many crossings and away from populated areas - where more deaths could occur.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Alternatives C-F have this new railway coming across my front yard on the other side of the road - my property value will decline drastically

Recommendations for the project: Why can't the railway follow US Hwy 78 & tie in to the last part of Alternative E. Most tracks follow major highways.

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us



Public Meeting
COMMENT SHEET

August 15, 2006

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355
E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us
www.goMDOT.com

Name Robert A. Dale, Jr. - MD Telephone 840-4648
Address 110 RAVENWOOD COVE
City TUPELO State MS Zip 38804

How did you hear about this meeting?

- ☒ Newspaper ☐ Radio
☐ Website ☐ Flyer
☐ Other _____

Are the time and location satisfactory?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No
If no, what time of day and where?

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The preliminary alternative you like best and why: THE ROUTE WEST OF TUPELO

Issues and/or concerns about the project: ALL THE ROUTES NORTH OF TUPELO WILL RUN THROUGH DEVELOPING NEIGHBORHOODS WITH NICE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSES. THE NOISE AND INCONVENIENCE FROM WAITING ON THOSE SEVERAL TRAINS EACH DAY WILL BE QUITE DISRUPTIVE.

Recommendations for the project: BUILD AN ELEVATED RAIL OR TUNNEL ROADWAY SYSTEM AT CROSSTOWN. KEEP THE TRAIN THERE. RECOMMEND STUDYING THE BRIDGE IN AMORY, MS OR THE ELEVATED RAMP IN PORTSMOUTH, OHIO WHICH CORRECTED THE PROBLEM FOR THOSE COMMUNITIES!

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

RECEIVED
DEC 18 2006
H D R

December 13, 2006

Jim Lee
HDR Project Manager
315 E. Robinson St. – Suite 400
Orlando, FL 32801-1949

John Winkle
FRA Project Manager
1120 Mt. Vernon Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20590

Wayne Parrish
MDOT Planning Division
401 N. West Street
Jackson, MS 39201

Kim Thurman
MDOT Planning Division
401 N. West Street
Jackson, MS 39201

Bill Jameison, P.E.
MDOT Dist. 1
1909 N. Gloster St.
Tupelo, MS 38804

Mayor Ed Neelly
City of Tupelo
P. O. Box 1485
Tupelo, MS 38802

RE: Railroad Relocation Study
Tupelo, Mississippi

I was unable to attend the first public meetings where the current relocation routes were presented. Therefore, I would like to give each of you my opinions concerning the proposed routes, and then explain what I feel is the best and only solution, if the railroad tracks are to ever be moved from the center of Tupelo.

All of the proposed alternatives are expensive. Way too expensive, in my opinion, especially when zero dollars are available after your 3-year study for this project. There is a more economical and much easier to build option.

The routes proposed would all require 100% purchase of right of way. Can you imagine the legal fights that will occur when this process starts? I can, and none of these routes will ever happen, in my opinion. However, there is government property already owned and available that could be used for most of this relocation.

The proposed routes require the building of numerous grade separations. However, there is a route that would require only the adjustment of three existing bridges.

The proposed routes leave many roads without grade separations. This would just cause more problems down the road. However, there is a route where the train could travel through Tupelo without any at grade crossings. Allowing the trains to zip quietly through without slowing down and without the need to blow their horns.

Who at this point can know the outcome of the Environmental Impact Studies that will be required for these proposed routes? There is a route where these studies have already been done.

So here for your review, and more important, for the review of the citizens of Tupelo is the only route that seems to make any sense for the relocation of the railroad. Use the existing right of way on Highways 78 and 45. If some small amount of additional right of way is required along these routes, buying a 25 or 50 foot strip along the side of the existing right of way would be much easier to accomplish, and from looking at this route that is not going to be necessary for most of the route. That is right, this route has one huge advantage. Everyone, including you, can just ride along the route now on the highway and see that it would work. It is possible for the citizens to see the relocation route before the first dollar is spent. That is not possible with the proposed routes in your study, which would make it much harder to build public support for them.

I have enclosed a map where my suggested route is marked for your review. But here is it in words. Leave the Burlington-Northern rail line just north of its underpass at Highway 78 at Belden and cross old Highway 78 with an at grade crossing. This is the old highway with light traffic and crossing arms should be installed here. This crossing is outside the City of Tupelo and the train would be going very fast at this crossing, so the wait time should be no more than a normal red light traffic signal. Then proceed east along the north side of new Highway 78 all the way to the Natchez Trace. This land is flat and straight. Here is where the three bridges would have to be adjusted to allow the train to go beneath Mt. Vernon Road, Old Town Road and the Natchez Trace. These are the only three crossings and the bridges are already there. The existing bridges would just require minor adjustments on their northern ends to allow the train to pass beneath the bridge.

The Major Thoroughfare Committee of the City of Tupelo in the next five years is building a new bridge over Highway 78 to carry traffic from Coley Road around to the Mall at Barnes Crossing area. This new bridge could be built to accommodate the train passing under it along with Highway 78. I have already spoken to them about this plan.

Then since the ground is high at the Natchez Trace compared to the bottomland for the rest of the route, the railroad would use a trestle for the remainder of the route crossing over Highway 78 (Future Interstate 22), North Gloster Street, Highway 45, the tracks of the Kansas City Southern Railroad, going east through the bottomland and then south alongside Highway 45 crossing over Main Street and Eason Boulevard to rejoin the Burlington-Northern main line southeast of Tupelo.

Since you will be using a trestle for this roughly 60% of the route no bridges will have to be built, not over roads, creeks or other railroads. And the current drainage of this area is not affected at all. I have enclosed photos of several such trestle systems, which clearly illustrate that this can be done.

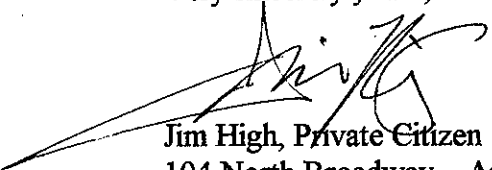
This is the shortest and most direct route. It should be the most economical, if the estimates are not prepared in a biased manner. There are many places in this country where railroads travel for much longer distances using trestles. There are many places in this country where railroads run along the sides of major highways. Highway 72 just 65 north of Tupelo is a great example as the railroad runs along the highway for miles and slips easily under the Natchez Trace.

And I remind you that 30 years ago, before Highways 78 & 45 were relocated out of the center of Tupelo plans were made for a huge Intermodel Highway and Railway System to be built from Jacksonville, Florida, to Kansas City, Missouri, using the very route I am proposing through Tupelo. Of course, that system was never built because it was just too grand.

That is the real problem with all the routes currently proposed in your study, they are just too grand and they will never happen. The obstacles in the way of these routes is just too great. The Highway 78 & 45 solution has far fewer obstacles in its path to completion.

Tupelo, Mississippi, has a real and pressing problem with the number of trains passing through our city every day, and it is getting worst every year. We need to do something about it. Let's do what is reasonable, much less expensive and that has the least impact on the environment and the population. I firmly believe that solution is the route shown on the enclosed map. The green is railroad built on the ground. The pink is railroad on a trestle system like the photos enclosed.

Very sincerely yours,



Jim High, Private Citizen
104 North Broadway - Apt. # 3
P. O. Box 467
Tupelo, MS 38802-0467

CC: Dick Hill, President
Tupelo City Council
Tupelo, Mississippi

David Rumbarger, President
Community Development Foundation
Tupelo, Mississippi

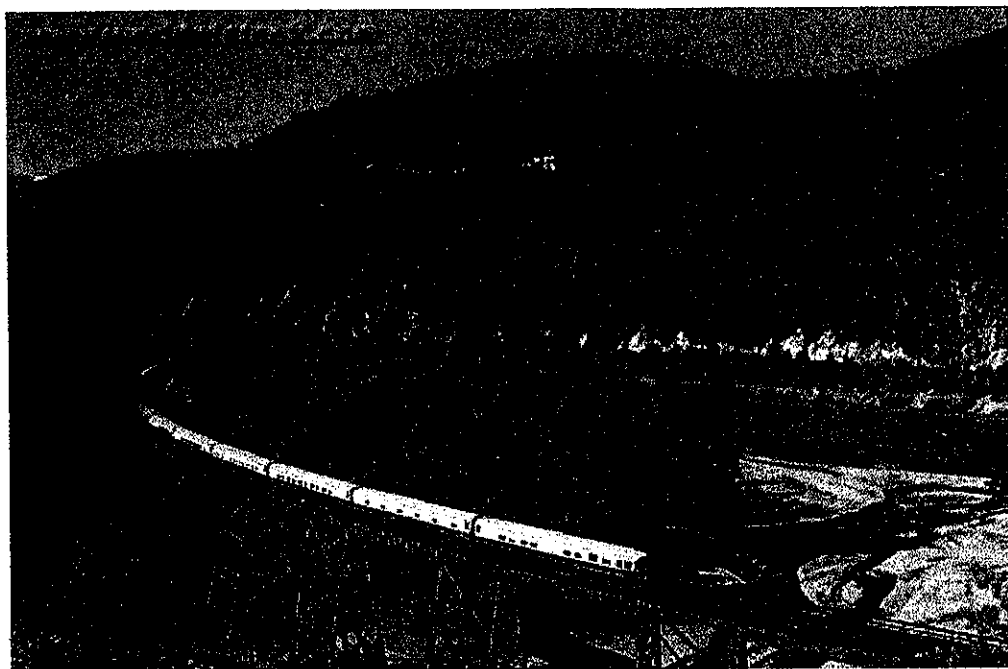
Emily LeCoz, Reporter
Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal
Tupelo, Mississippi

Rep. Roger Wicker
United States Congress
Tupelo, Mississippi

Phil Morgan, President
Lee County Board of Supervisors
Tupelo, Mississippi

Former Mayor Larry Otis
City of Tupelo
Tupelo, Mississippi

Greg Pirkle, Chairman
Major Thoroughfare Committee
Tupelo, Mississippi



January 4, 2007

RECEIVED
JAN 08 2007
H D R

Mr. James W. Lee, P.E.
HDR Engineering, Inc.
315 E. Robinson Street – Suite 400
Orlando, FL 32801-1949

RE: Tupelo, MS Railroad Relocation Study

Dear Mr. Lee:

Thank you for responding to my letter and proposed alternative for the relocation of the railroad from the middle of Tupelo. Please know that I have lived here all my life and right near Crosstown (I hope you know about Crosstown), which is Tupelo's biggest problem with the trains.

Since you have probably never been to Tupelo, let me explain. Crosstown is where Tupelo's only two major north/south and east/west streets meet. The BNSF Railroad bisects this intersection of Gloster Street and Main Street. And in addition, the switch for their railroad switchyard is located immediately to the S/E of this intersection on the railroad's main track. This means that any switching causes a complete blocking of Crosstown every time railroad freight cars are switched in Tupelo. This in addition of the 24+ major freight trains that come through Tupelo causes Crosstown to be the most congested intersection in the State of Mississippi.

Only someone who has lived with and close to these problems for so long could possibly know much about how to fix them. That, coupled with a long time interest in improving Tupelo's railroad problems, is the bases for my suggestion of a simpler route than all those so far suggested by HDR. I am glad to know that my suggestions will now be given serious consideration.

As I believe I stated in my first letter. My suggested route has one huge advantage over any other suggested route for relocation. You can go drive it right now and actually look at where the tracks would be placed. Anyone, including all the private citizens of Tupelo, can see for themselves right now what would be involved and how my proposed relocation route would actually work. I encourage you to come to Tupelo and ride the route.

I noticed in your letter the idea that only Professional Engineers have the ability to know what is possible and all the things that must be considered for the building of railroads. Obviously there are many technical things that I do not know, but I will be glad to have the problems of my suggested route studied in light of all the facts. However, rejection of any of the proposed routes, including the one suggested by me, should be made only on the bases of specific facts and real cost estimates, not some general opinions.

Now let me address remarks made by Chad Luedke's as quoted in the Daily Journal newspaper story about my plan on Wednesday, December 13, 2006. First off, he immediately stated that it was "impractical from an engineering standpoint and would only create a new set of problems". I trust now that he and you have had a chance to look more carefully at what I sent to both of you and to others, that this is still not your immediate first impression.


Next Mr. Luedke claimed that railroad tracks need to follow different "geometric criteria" and for this reason railroads could not follow the curves, hills and valleys like highways do. Please bring Mr. Luedke with you when you come to Tupelo, since he has probably never been here either. I'll be glad to take both of you on a tour of my route to show you that there are no hills, curves or valleys on my route, and that smart engineers should be well able to design a railroad relocation to fit where I have suggested is the most economical and easiest place to put it.

Mr. Luedke was quoted as saying "to be honest, you're moving the problem from one place to another". Everyone here in Tupelo, and especially those that take the time to go ride the route and look at it, know that he is in complete error with this statement, which clearly shows that he is not familiar with anything along the route I have suggested, or the future commercial and residential development of Tupelo.

I am not trying to be argumentative, just factual. I just want to make sure that what I feel is the best and most economical route is not dismissed out of hand. And I am going to continue to work to see that it is not. Surely HDR Engineering wants what is best for Tupelo, even if that turns out to be a plan not initially suggested by HDR.

My invitation to tour you and others here in Tupelo will remain open. I hope that you will avail yourselves of the opportunity. And if I get down to my Marriott Condo at Marriott's Orlando World Center Hotel this summer, I will try to schedule a visit with you.

Very sincerely yours,



Jim High

COPY

RECEIVED

APR 06 2007

H D R

April 2, 2007

~~Claiborne Barnwell, P.E.
MDOT
P. O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850~~

RE: Railroad Relocation Study
Tupelo, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Barnwell:

Thank you for your letter of March 18th, and I most appreciate your phone call in advance of the letter. I feel we had a positive open and honest conversation about this Relocation Study and other options that the City of Tupelo might need to consider in the future.

I am not sure that I completely understand the chart that you included with your letter. About the major thing I learned from it is that my proposed route is approximately 11 miles in length. Of that, some 6 miles would be on the trestle that I propose. I realize that \$5,000 per foot seems high for building a trestle, but in reality that is only \$26.5 Million per mile and for the 6 miles, only \$159 Million dollars. This amount added to the cost of the other 5 miles along the flat land north of Highway 78 would, in my opinion, make this route far cheaper to build than any of the other proposals.

Something else in your letter needs clarification. You talk about the problems of adjusting the heights of the bridges and the off/on ramps. Actually of the three existing bridges that would need adjustment, only the Natchez Trace Parkway Bridge has any off/on ramps. Changing the height of a bridge without any off/on ramps while not a simple process, I think you will admit is really not all that difficult. Yes, the whole Natchez Trace Parkway Interchange might have to be rebuilt. But building one new interchange on the entire route is a far cry from the 10 to 20 grade separations that are proposed in the other routes. And remember those grade separations put the roads over the railroad on new bridges and interchanges, not the railroad over the roads as my trestle proposal does without the need for bridges or interchanges.

Everywhere I go here in Tupelo people talk to me about the route that I have proposed and tell me that it makes perfect sense. The public is for this route, and I don't believe that any other route can ever win public acceptance. The right of way battles would be enormous.

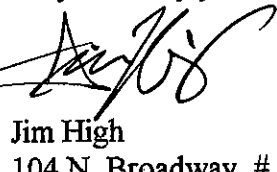
Moving this track out of the middle of Tupelo is one of the most important issues that Tupelo will have to face in the years ahead. Yes, my route might have a few design problems. But they can be overcome.

Why not do what is possible. What causes the least problems. What fixes the problem for ever. What will have public support. And what in the end will also probably be the least expensive.

I look forward to further developments as this Relocation Study moves forward. And I certainly hope and expect that the High Alternative, as you call it, can be given the careful study that the other routes receive.

I have one additional question for you. It was my understanding that HDR Engineering, Inc. was hired by MDOT to do this study. If that is so, why is MDOT doing what appears to be all the work?

Very sincerely yours,



Jim High
104 N. Broadway # 3
Tupelo, MS 38802

cc: Mr. Bill Jameison, District Engineer, Tupelo
Mr. Wayne Parrish, Planning Division
✓ Mr. Jim Lee, HDR Consultants
Representative Roger Wicker
Emily LeCoz, Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal



Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Lawrence Hardy Telephone 662-842-7138

Address 2060 Eastlake Drive

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: M - in Town Alternative
Elevating Rail Through
Town

Issues and/or concerns about the project: _____

Recommendations for the project: _____

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us



Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Bill Martin Telephone 662 844-4485
Address PO BOX 1091
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38802

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>RAISED TRACK</u> | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: RAISED TRACK ON SAME
ROAD BED

Issues and/or concerns about the project: OTHER ROUTES AFFECT LIVES
OF OTHERS, THEIR HOMES, ETC.

Recommendations for the project: RAISED TRACK THROUGH TOWN.

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Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name FRANK BOETTCHER Telephone 662-401-0258

Address 4439 RIDGEWAY DR

City BELDEN State MS Zip 38826

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: ALTERNATIVE L, FOLLOWED BY K
L IS THE LEAST COSTLY OF THE ALTERNATIVES THAT WILL
REDUCE THE NOISE ALL THE WAY TO THE WEST LIMIT
IT SOLVES THE CROSS TOWN PROBLEM BUT NOT THE WEST
SIDE NOISE

Issues and/or concerns about the project: COST & THAT THE PLANNING,
ENVIRONMENTAL DOMAIN PROCESS & CONSTRUCTION WILL TAKE
LONGER.

Recommendations for the project: PICK L OR K & GO!

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

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Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Louise W. White Telephone 662-842-1927

Address 344 Highway 178 W

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: M - Does not affect my property.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: _____

Recommendations for the project: _____

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Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: _____

Issues and/or concerns about the project: _____

Recommendations for the project: _____

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Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Mary Lou Parks Telephone 844-6715

Address 417 Hwy 178 W

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: (M) Selfishly, I like this because it doesn't affect my property (because one of the early plans put the track going through my house!) But economically, it makes more sense and no one will be any closer to the railroad than they are now.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: _____

Recommendations for the project: Listen to the people. Don't put this off for another 10-20 years.

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Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Margaret Boss Telephone 869-2201

Address 1785 Birmingham Ridge Rd

City Satullo State MS Zip 38866

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affected <u>Maybe</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: The raised bridge. This railroad has been at its present location for years and there is no reason to move it when it affects other property owners and residences. We do not need Tupelo's problem - they should have thought about the problem B-4 it was created

Issues and/or concerns about the project: that it devalue property, create the same problem in another area cause a lot of noise and that this will be passed on to taxpayers cost wise

Recommendations for the project:

Put it underground.

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

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Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Lacey Holland Telephone 662-419-0535

Address 1811 Birmingham Ridge

City Salt Lake State MS Zip 38866

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: Alternative "M" reduces safety hazards.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: will devalue our land, increase noise pollution, studies show increase in crime

Recommendations for the project: Leave it where it is! Each Supervisor should hold meeting within each district to meet with citizens who cannot ~~reach~~ travel to this meeting

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

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Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name C. LAMAR Crocker Telephone 662.840.6999

Address P.O. Box 7236

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38802.7236

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: Alternative K - although it is expensive
it is the best use of land resources & provides the traffic relief also,
in its northern part at Sherman, it will have a positive effect
on the Toyota plant.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: The elevated alternative is not a viable
option at all!
• time constraints - a decision for Alt "K" should be made ASAP
& implemented ASAP!

Recommendations for the project: Whatever is done the project should be
given "top priority" as it relates to the city of Tupelo,
traffic flow overall and future benefits @ the Toyota
plant.

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us



Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Rachel S. Crocker Telephone 662-842-3338 (day)
Address 1403 Ruffwood Rd
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38801

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>aesthetics</u> | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: (K)

L would rapidly create another malfunction/bottleneck in the area where most area growth already exists.
M would ruin the city's aesthetics & cause further migration out of the city thereby doing economic harm to the city.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: _____

see L & M above

Recommendations for the project: _____

K seems in my opinion the only sensible thing to do. It would be foolish to spend money on L or M and still/soon have problems.

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Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Jim High Telephone 842-1932

Address P.O. Box 467

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38802

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: _____

~~Issues and/or concerns about the project:~~

_____ TO FURTHER HELP
_____ CROSSTOWN PROBLEMS

Recommendations for the project: _____

_____ MOVE SWITCH TO EAST END OF
_____ THE CURRENT SWITCH YARD

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PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name M. BRISCOE Telephone 662-321-1452

Address 4386 OLD TOWN

City TUPELO State MS Zip 38804

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: RAISING OR NOTHING

Issues and/or concerns about the project: EXPENSE TO TAXPAYERS
& AFFECTED LANDOWNERS

Recommendations for the project: _____

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Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Daniel Adrian Doss, Ph.D. Telephone (662) 869 2020

Address 1811 Birmingham Ridge Rd

City Saltillo State MS Zip 38866

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: Alternative "M." Potential of using the existing infrastructure; one of lower-cost alternatives; May demonstrate shortest path alternative; etc.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Lack of dissemination of information regarding the amalgamation of studies and their outcomes. Lack of Q/A sessions and formal presentation of materials.

Recommendations for the project: Better communication with populace; Better dissemination of information; presentation of data + information with much greater details (e.g., streets, houses, etc.).

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PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Margaret Gratz Telephone 844-5649
Address 3675 Old Town
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: None

Moving the railroad is only moving the problem. Have surrounding communities' needs & desires been considered? These so-called solutions would exacerbate problems.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Moving the tracks would impact existing homes & neighborhoods — eminent domain is frequently abused & benefits private businesses & individuals. Filling in the flood plain will adversely effect the environment.

Recommendations for the project: Just keep as is - tunnel under tracks or elevate road over. The best solution is leave as is.

Does the railroad want to move?
Who is paying the exorbitant cost???

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July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name William Rutledge Telephone 662-842-2786

Address 413 Ione

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38801

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: ALT L SEEMS THE BEST, BUT SOME
ADJUSTMENTS MIGHT BE ADVISABLE.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: THE ROUTE THRU TOWN SEEMS TOO
INVASIVE.

Recommendations for the project: IS IT POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE
EAST-WEST PORTION OF THE ROUTE SHORTER
WITHOUT THE JOG TO THE NORTH TO BARNES
CROSSING?

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Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Beverly Chappell Telephone 662-844-9615

Address 2016 Strain St.

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: I would like to see this relocation plan entirely scrapped, dropped in the trash because it is ridiculous! expensive! too expensive for a nation at war with untold numbers of fanatic muslim "extremists". We should be spending this \$ on national security!

Issues and/or concerns about the project:

Waiting 10 or 15 minutes a day for a train to pass is no big inconvenience... not worth a 400 to 600 million dollar expenditure.

Recommendations for the project: I further feel that elevating the train through downtown Tupelo would be extremely unattractive! Put the train in a trench if you must... that would at least muffle the noise.

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Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Brenda Spearman Telephone _____

Address 901 CR 1498

City Tupelo, MS State _____ Zip 38804

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: Elevated Railway

Issues and/or concerns about the project: _____

Recommendations for the project: _____

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Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Ernie Joyner Telephone 842-5058

Address 2317 Parc Monceau N.

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: M. Maintains the same right-of-way.
Not as expensive as some other alternatives

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Northern route would interfere
with development around Major Thoroughfare road to
Barnes Crossing

Recommendations for the project: _____

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Public Meeting

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July 12, 2007

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Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Sam M. Carter Telephone 841-1303
Address 1829 Creely Road
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: Alternative M.

This would be the least amount of money. No one
would have to buy land or make people move.
My land borders 78 to the North. I live between Mt Vernon
Road and the trace. I live South of Town Creek.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Alternative K would kill other
developments, have to buy land, make people move.
Alternative K would get people's land & be more
costly.

Recommendations for the project: Alternative M makes better sense.

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Public Meeting

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July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Gale Henderson Telephone 662-566-7530

Address 144 Rd. 784

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38801

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: Alternative M -

It is the least expensive and follows
existing tracks. People who bought houses or
businesses. Knew the train track was there.
It is a Tupelo problem and should be "fixed" in
Tupelo. An overpass at Crosstown should have

Issues and/or concerns about the project: been built long ago.
We recently chose to live in the
County to have acreage and quietness.
We do not want the noise or property
devaluation - We probably "over-paid" and do
not think it is fair to have our neighborhood
Recommendations for the project: adversely affected.

Also, Pontotoc landowners should not shoulder Tupelo's
problems - They should not.
DO NOT choose alternative K -
Those living in this area do not have

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representatives like a lawyer to represent them.
Donna Johnson Alternative M - the cheapest choice.



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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name RALPH HENDERSON Telephone 566-7530

Address 144 RD. 784

City Tupelo, MS. 38801 State MS Zip 38801

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: ALTERNATIVE M

Issues and/or concerns about the project: THIS IS A TUPELO PROBLEM. THIS IS NOT A LEE COUNTY OR PONTOTOC PROBLEM. KEEP THE RAILROAD IN TUPELO WHERE IT IS SUPPOSE TO BE AND DON'T PUT IT IN THE COUNTY.

Recommendations for the project: I THINK ALTERNATIVE M IS THE BEST WAY TO GO. IT IS CHEAPER PLUS THE RIGHT-OF-WAY HAS ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED.

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PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Mike Stroup Telephone 840-1720

Address 262 Ranch land Rd

City Belden State MS Zip 38826

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: A L Moves Noise +
danger out of populated areas.
M would be my next choice

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Alternative K would disrupt land
+ watersheds in a nice rural area.

Recommendations for the project: Choice L is the best.

This format for the meeting is great! Maps + Staff to answer
questions are a big help. The pass through and visit allows
good communication and avoids arguments and emotional outbursts.

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Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Ken Clements Telephone 662-790-3092
Address 1138 D. L. Collins Dr.
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38801

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: I am in favor of the elevated tracks over the existing TR.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Grade crossing At Eason ^{BNST} & on the KCS on Eason

Recommendations for the project: Recommend the elevated and make overpass over BNST & KCS on Eason

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Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Jian Hsieh Telephone 842-1932

Address P.O. Box 467

City Tupelo, MS State _____ Zip 38802

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: _____

The High Alternative Attached

Issues and/or concerns about the project: _____

we don't want the Great Wall of China through Tupelo

Recommendations for the project: _____

Adopt the first 35% of the High Alternative

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Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name LAWRENCE BRISCO Telephone 662-842-0482

Address PO BOX 2882

City TUPELO State MS Zip 38803

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: M, IN TOWN ALTERNATIVE, THIS JUST
MAKES THE MOST SENSE. I THINK IT WILL LOOK GOOD
AND ACTUALLY MAKE TUPELO LOOK MORE
"METROPOLITAN". ~~IT IS~~ ~~THE~~ THIRTY YEARS FROM NOW
THERE ~~WILL~~ ~~MIGHT~~ BE SHORT HAUL COMMUTER TRAINS FROM
TUPELO TO WELLSPRING TO NEW ALBANY

Issues and/or concerns about the project: DO THE PROJECT RIGHT

Recommendations for the project: FIND THE MONEY TO DO
THE IN TOWN ALTERNATIVE M

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Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Leon Herring Telephone 566-8596

Address 886 Palmetto Rd

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38801

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Don't want to give up land</u> | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: Alternative M- Because it would cost less and I don't want the train crossing my land.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: ① I don't want to give up my land ② Cost involved ③ Noise + Safety

Recommendations for the project: Leave it like it is now or Alternative M. The train has gone through Tupelo for years and people have adjusted to it. I think the cost involved should naturally be a deciding factor.

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

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Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Tommie Lee Ivy Telephone 662/767-3311

Address 292 Rd 154

City Shannon State MS Zip 38868

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: Alternative M Because it cost less
money

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Citizen are Concern noise and Safety in
the areas

Recommendations for the project: Leave Just like it is

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

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Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Lay Reed Telephone _____

Address 2136 Deer Run

City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: Raise crosstown tracks

Issues and/or concerns about the project: moving tracks to Mt Vernon
Rel area would directly hurt our
property value of our home

Recommendations for the project: _____

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

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Public Meeting

COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Ronnie Bell Telephone (662) 844-7971
Address 141 Road 159
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: M - seems to be most economical
and least intrusive.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: Have all reasonable alternatives
been explored?

Recommendations for the project: For the amount of money in the
estimate, is this a worthwhile project?

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

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Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name Patsy Hitt Telephone 840-8444
Address 2071 Deer Run Road
City Tupelo State MS Zip 38804

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: Elevating tracks
- cheaper
- won't affect housing

Issues and/or concerns about the project: _____

The northern route would compromise real estate in an area that is growing. The railway would be extremely close to my home and would decrease my property value.

Recommendations for the project: _____

Go with raising tracks or street at cross-town - cheaper and more feasible. Let those of us who chose to purchase a home away from the tracks still have that amenity. Thank you!

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Public Meeting COMMENT SHEET

July 12, 2007

PROJECT BEING CONSIDERED

Tupelo Railroad Relocation

Environmental Division FAX Number: 601-359-7355

E-mail: environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

www.goMDOT.com

Name KEVIN HITT Telephone 662-840-8444

Address 2071 DEER RUN RD

City TUPELO State MS Zip 38804

Which best describes your primary interest?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What are the major issues?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relocations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Volume | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

MDOT is interested in your comments about the proposed project. Please indicate:

The alternative you like best and why: ELEVATING TRACKS

1) CHEAPEST ALTERNATIVE

2) DOES NOT "AFFECT" ANYONE NEGATIVELY. ONLY IMPROVES A BAD SITUATION

3) IF DONE RIGHT CAN BE AESTHETICALLY PLEASING, AND AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER CITIES TO FOLLOW.

Issues and/or concerns about the project: _____

THE NORTHERN PROPOSED ROUTE WILL TRANSECT SOME OF THE MOST PROMISING REAL ESTATE - BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL THAT TUPELO HAS. HOUSING LAND IS AT A PREMIUM. THIS WILL KEEP PEOPLE FROM BUILDING MY HOUSE (AND MY NEIGHBORS) ARE VERY CLOSE TO THE TRACK, AND THIS WILL CAUSE OUR HOME VALUES TO PLUMMET.

Recommendations for the project: _____

AS ABOVE. YOU DON'T WANT TO CREATE ANOTHER PROBLEM WHILE SOLVING ONE. EITHER ELEVATE THE TRACKS, OR IF MONEY IS AN ISSUE, DO NOTHING.

THANK YOU!

PLEASE SUBMIT AT THE MEETING OR MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE SIDE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Visit us on the web at www.goMDOT.com, or e-mail environmental_comments@mdot.state.ms.us

APPENDIX E

Letter to Representative Roger Wicker
Jim High's Handouts at the Public Meeting

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Representative Roger Wicker
U. S. House of Representatives
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Roger:

I picked up a copy of the letter from Butch Brown with MDOT today before the Public Meeting to look at the three routes now proposed by MDOT for the relocation of the BNSF railroad tracks

I'll get to my High Alternative, as MDOT calls it, in a moment, but first let me comment on the three routes proposed by MDOT.

The elevated route through the middle of Tupelo along the present railroad line would create a "Great Wall of China" through the middle of Tupelo and will prove to be unacceptable to the general public. I use to own property along this route, so I know how little right of way BNSF has as it passed through Tupelo, especially in the Crosstown area. Can you image the headaches involved in getting right of way and actually building this huge two or three mile wall? It is interesting to note that while they seem to dismiss my trestle design, they are proposing to put the trains in the air on top of a huge concrete wall. What does this say?

Their route that would follow Coley Road extended to the Mall @ Barnes Crossing area will not be good for the development of Tupelo in the future, and that area is where most new development will occur. And how on earth do they think moving the trains from the middle of town to the middle of the largest retail shopping area in North Mississippi is a step in the right direction? It is also interesting to note that this route does follow pretty much my route along side of U.S. Hwy 45 as it heads south, but I think they plan on building bridges on all the roads over the tracks. What does this say about MDOT's thinking? They know bridges and little else, I'm afraid.

Their third option, the most expensive at some 3/4ths of a BILLION dollars, would run the new route almost completely out of Lee county from Blue Springs south through Pontotoc County and then cutting back across southern Lee County near Shannon to reconnect with BNSF near Nettleton. Everyone in Tupelo would love this route. But by the time we get around to actually building it the cost will be well over a BILLION dollars. And would we really ever get to the point of building it? Probably not because not a single landowner all along that long route would want the train tracks. And how does it look for Tupelo to be moving it's problem out into Lee County, let alone moving all the way over to the folks in Pontotoc county

So these three plans are all very bad, in my opinion.

Now let me address Mr. Brown's comments in his letter of June 29th to you. First he seems to not understand what I (we) are talking about. He says due to the flood plan east of the Natchez Trace much of the corridor will need to be elevated. Duh? All of it is elevated on a trestle. That is why it is so easy to build in this area.

He says that my route would head south from Main Street to the existing BNSF route, but he seems to forget that my trestle would also take the railroad over Eason Blvd. before it begins to come back to ground level beyond Eason Blvd. as the railroad heads toward Nettleton.

He says that the entire U.S. 45 and 78 interchange would have to be rebuilt. What on earth is he talking about? My route, which I showed to his people on the tour we took, comes no where near that interchange.

He talks about extreme angles and elevation changes on my route. If he understood the route he would know that these do not exist.

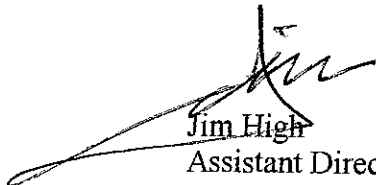
He talks all about different criteria for railroads Vs highways, and seems to try to throw in complications with future I-22, which is important to Tupelo and the new Toyota plant. These are all non-issues. The only place where the railroad and the US Highways intersect the railroad is in the air on a trestle going over the highway. Don't tell me this never happens, I drive under several such bridges every time I go to Memphis on future I-22.

I can't understand why MDOT and HDR can't see that the High Alternative is the only route that puts the railroad issue to bed forever. Because it is along the existing U.S. 78 & 45 routes it will never ever be in the way of anything in the future. And why can't the highways and the rail relocation route at least share some of the present right of way of these highways. MDOT does not own this property. The people of Mississippi do, and that is us in Tupelo.

Attached is a detailed map showing the High Alternative and notes on the back to help anyone understand this relocation route. I even use figures that MDOI gave me to come up with a rough cost estimate.

Please don't let us get pushed in the direction of a plan that will never happen, at least not in our lifetimes. The problems that Tupelo has right now in 2007 with the trains are too great to let this happen.

Sincerely,



Jim High
Assistant Director

Notes for Railroad Relocation Route that follows U.S. Hwy 78 and U.S. Hwy 45 (See Map)

1. At grade crossing for old Hwy 78. This is at the edge of Tupelo where the trains are traveling every fast. So the time the train blocks the road would be short. The crossing should have Crossing Guards. There is also ample room to build a bridge over the railroad, if funds are available and the traffic count justifies this.
2. Mt. Vernon Road has no on or off ramps to deal with. Only the height of the bridge needs to be adjusted a little to allow the train to pass under the bridge on the north side.
3. Old Town Road has no on or off ramps to deal with. Only the height of the bridge needs to be adjusted a little to allow the train to pass under the bridge on the north side.
4. Natchez Trace – This entire interchange may need to be rebuilt to accommodate the on and off ramps to the trace and to allow for the train to pass under the Natchez Trace and onto the trestle that will carry the train for the rest of its route through Tupelo. A compete engineering review will determine the best method to handle this interchange.
5. The railroad is on a trestle at this point and goes over U.S. 78 without the need for any bridge or changes to U.S. 78.
6. The railroad is on a trestle at this point and goes over Gloster Street without the need for any bridge or changes to Gloster Street.
7. The railroad is on a trestle at this point and goes over U.S. 45 without the need for any bridge or changes to U.S. 45.
8. The railroad is on a trestle at this point and goes over the Kansas City Southern Railroad without the need for any bridge or changes to this other railroads track.

9. The railroad is on a trestle at this point and goes over Main Street without the need for any bridge or changes to Main Street.

10. The railroad is on a trestle at this point and goes over Eason Blvd. without the need for any bridge or changes to Eason Blvd.

This route is approximately 11 miles long. Five miles is on the flat land along the north side of U.S. Hwy 78. Six miles is on an elevated trestle.

MDOT says that a trestle cost \$26,500,000 per mile to build. This is only \$ 159,000,000.

Assuming half that for a railroad on flat land, those 5 miles would be \$ 66,250,000.

Rebuilding the Natchez Trace Interchange and adjusting the height of two bridges should not cost over \$25,000,000.

Total estimate for this route - \$ 250,250,000

This is the least expensive, the least disruptive, easiest to build and best route."

Welcome To
TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI
 New Route
 DEER RUN DR

New Route ↓

old route ↑

**OTHER
KRAIL
LINE**

Public Involvement Record Sheet

Tupelo Railroad Relocation EIS



Date of Meeting	February 5, 2008, 4:45 pm
Location of Meeting	Ms. Crowley's home, Tupelo, MS
Meeting Style	Individual meeting with a citizen who lives on the track
Duration of meeting	30 minutes
Parties involved	MDOT, ABMB, Fitch Williamson and Assoc.
Exhibits Used	none
Original Objective	To meet with a local citizen who is directly impacted by the train and evaluate how her day to day living is affected
Accomplishment	Met with Ms. Crowley in her home and back yard.
Summary of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trains appear to traverse the area more often on the weekends • Horn blowing is more frequent and longer on the weekends (maybe from the anticipation of more public activity in the area on weekends?) • Vibration is bad in the back of the house • Noise is not so bad in most of the house but is most negatively felt in the sunroom in the back. • Largest noise impact is from the horn blowing • The train interrupts phone calls – Ms crowly must stop phone conversations until the horn stops • Ms Crowley loves this neighborhood – she is close to work • She has lived her since 2005 and has lived in Tupelo for over 20 years

The purpose of this document is to serve as a record of meetings and Public Involvement held for the Tupelo Railroad Relocation EIS.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic congestion at the nearby street crossing is an issue for her – the traffic backs up into her street when a train is crossing • Rising insurance rates was a question she had – would her homeowners insurance go up because of the elevated track in her neighborhood? • She also questioned the removal of trees on her property. She has some old growth oak trees along the back of her yard that provide a visual buffer from the train. She would like to see them remain. • Ms. Crowley was not open to the idea of a walking trail alongside the track in her neighborhood for safety reasons. Lighting might also be undesirable in that it would shine in her windows at night.
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The purpose of this document is to serve as a record of meetings and Public Involvement held for the Tupelo Railroad Relocation EIS.

Public Involvement Record Sheet

Tupelo Railroad Relocation EIS



Date of Meeting	February 5, 2008, 6:00 pm
Location of Meeting	Inspirational Community Baptist Church, 405 Clayton Ave, Tupelo, MS
Meeting Style	Small public meeting for the neighborhood
Duration of meeting	1 ½ hours
Parties involved	MDOT: Claiborne Barnwell, Kim Thurman; ABMB: Joce Pritchett, Latonya Graham; Fitch Williamson & Cartwright, Inc.: Lavelle Fitch
Exhibits Used	Tupelo RR Relocation video, 24x36 poster plots of the rail bridge renderings and ortho renderings
Original Objective	To meet with citizens of the neighborhood that would be most affected by Alternative M, the in-town rail bridge alternative
Accomplishment	Met with 9 citizens and the pastor and discussed the implications of the in-town alternative
Summary of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church has a recording studio where they record services and music and they often have horn noise on their tapes. • Pastor stated that the proximity of the train is the reason the church has no windows – they were closed in to keep out the noise • Train horn can be heard from inside the church as far away as crosstown • Audible sounds heard were from the engine, wheels, and horn • The BNSF has upgraded their engines and the new engines are much quieter than they use to be. Most of the existing noise is from the track and the horn. • Pastor stated that there is a high turnover in apartments and rental housing in the area because of the train noise • Flashing lights and gate alarm are also a nuisance.

The purpose of this document is to serve as a record of meetings and Public Involvement held for the Tupelo Railroad Relocation EIS.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much of the noise (other than the horn) seems to be from the train hitting the intersection. • Church does not limit children's activities because of the train – they play in the front of the property. Train is actually an attraction or novelty for the children. • Citizens stated that the train interferes greatly with trips to work making people late for work and coming back from lunch. Workers with a 30 minute lunch are greatly impacted by a train event. • Citizens generally seemed to be of the consensus that the M-alternative was very much needed and a great idea • There didn't seem to be much as much concern over the visual aspects of the elevated structure as there was the need to alleviate the congestion issues. • Concern for emergency vehicle mobility was discussed: ambulance and fire traffic is hampered now • The whole town shuts down as the train crosses the intersection of Main and Gloster. • It is difficult to hold conversations while standing outside of the church. The horn is so loud that it prevents one from hearing. You must wait until it passes. • There is some concern about safety. People speed after they hear a train coming. They attempt to cross the tracks before they are required to wait. There have been a few accidents.
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The purpose of this document is to serve as a record of meetings and Public Involvement held for the Tupelo Railroad Relocation EIS.

TUPELO RAILROAD RELOCATION PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

Neighborhood Meeting

February 5, 2008 6:00 pm

Inspirational Community Baptist Church

405 Clayton Ave, Tupelo, MS

SIGN-IN SHEET

Name / Agency	Address	Phone / Fax	E-mail
Bartha Cowley	214 Rankin Blvd.	662-840-9389	
Cordell Phillips	405 Clayton Ave	662-841-2915	inspirationalcom@bellsouth.net
John D. Webb	610 Mont St	662-841-5954	
Michelle Coleman	116 Stephen St	(662) 222-6548	
Kimberly Stevenson	3545 Mitchell Rd	(662) 204-1772	kimberlystevenson@yahoo.com
Walter Thompson	133 Savannah	(662) 260-8533	
Bonnie Deman	116 Stephen St	(662) 231-5856	
Johnnie Pinson	614 Maryland Dr	(662) 322-5257	
Kenice Thompson	846 Zolnay Court	(662) 260-6878	

HDR



ABMB
ENGINEERING

Jim High

P. O. Box 467

Tupelo, MS 38802

April 17, 2009

(662) 842-1932

Mr. Wayne Parrish
MDOT Planning Division
401 N. West Street
Jackson, MS 39201

RE: Tupelo, MS – Railroad Re-Location Study

Dear Mr. Parrish:

I was very disappointed to see that after almost four years the railroad relocation study has boiled down to only one proposed solution. What happened to all those other lines on the map that ran all over the county? Frankly to me they looked much like big magic marker arcs drawn without much regard for the facts on the ground. But according to reports that I have read in the paper the single, only, and final solution proposed after the expenditure of \$2,000,000 is for a “Great Wall of China” to be built through the center of Tupelo to elevate the railroad in its present location.

You must realize that the citizens of this city will never agree with this. And this is beside the fact that the right-of-way does not now exist to accomplish this elevation of the tracks and at the same time keep the trains running while the elevated route is built.

All of this leads me to ask how the citizens of Tupelo can get an accounting of where and how \$2,000,000 of our taxpayer money was spent? Who was hired? What were they suppose to do? Did they do it? How much were they paid? Have they been paid? Is any of the \$2,000,000 still available for further review of our railroad problems?

And I am not looking for generalizations and categories of expenses showing percentages spent on various phases or parts of the study. I am looking for names, details and actual dollar amounts. Since most of us who live here in Tupelo and deal with these trains daily feel that this \$2,000,000 has been completely wasted, some accounting from MDOT would be very helpful in our understanding of where we are now and what our next steps should be, since the problem is still with us, getting worse by the month as both the railroad traffic and Tupelo’s street traffic grow, and we don’t have a workable permanent solution in sight.

Will MDOT be able to provide the people of Tupelo with this financial accounting? And I have one more question for you. At the meeting held recently with the residents of Mill Village here in Tupelo, I understand the question of increasing the speed of the trains through Tupelo was brought up, a suggestion that I have made on several occasions in the past. I was not informed of this meeting and did not attend, but I was told that MDOT said this was not a viable solution since the speed could not be increased, except from the current 20 mph to 25 mph due to the BNSF Railroad crossing the tracks of the Kansas City Southern Railroad in the middle of Tupelo.

Since this is not what I have been told by railroad officials, I got in touch with the Federal Railroad Administration and posed this question to them. The attached return email would indicate that information given out by MDOT at the Mill Village meeting was incorrect. Can you explain this?

There was great hope almost four years ago when the City of Tupelo working with then Representative Roger Wicker obtained \$2,000,000 from the Federal Government (our tax dollars) for what was to be a final proposed solution to Tupelo's ever growing problem with the BNSF Railroad. But I think I speak for almost everyone when I say that we are back at square one, and really have nothing to show for our \$2,000,000. I think we deserve to know in detail where the money went. And by the copies of this letter shown below, I hope you know that I do intend to find out. MDOT could speed this process along by providing a full, detailed accounting of all expenditures down to the last penny. Surely that kind of bookkeeping report is available at the push of some computer button.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim High", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Jim High

CC: Senator Roger Wicker
Senator Thad Cochran
Congressman Travis Childers
Northern District MDOT Commissioner Bill Minor
MDOT Executive Director Butch Brown
City of Tupelo Mayor Ed Neelly
Tupelo City Council President Burdell Jones
Mississippi State Auditor Stacy Pickering
Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal

“For over 14 years in Congress, I have supported policies that keep your taxes low for a simple reason: I believe tax dollars are your money, not the government’s money.” From Senator Roger Wicker’s Weekly Email Update

SmartZone Communications Center Collaboration Suite

jimhigh@comcast.net

Response Control #011752

Monday, March 09, 2009 9:48:24 AM

From: Carlo.Patrick@dot.gov

To: jimhigh@comcast.net

Cc: RCorrespondenceStaff@dot.gov

Mr. High,

The Federal Railroad Administration has no regulations for posting operating speeds at railroad track crossings. Speeds are assigned to track crossings by the individual railroad with consideration to the construction (manganese steel or bolted heat-treated rail), manufacturer's recommendations, and whether it is located on a heavy or high-speed traffic route. The only speeds the FRA regulates are curve tracks described in Title 49 CFR Part 213 Subpart C Sec. 212.57 (Curves), and any speed restrictions needed when a segment of track does not meet the requirements of the Federal Track Safety Standards. If you have any further questions, please feel free to notify us.

Regards,

Carlo M. Patrick
Chief - Rail Integrity
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE - Mail Stop 25
Office 33-301
Washington D.C. 20590
Phone: 202-493-6399
Cell: 202-253-6484
E-mail: carlo.patrick@dot.gov

SmartZone Communications Center Collaboration Suite

jimhigh@comcast.net

A Question

Friday, March 06, 2009 12:43:45 PM

From: jimhigh@comcast.net

To: rrs.correspondence@fra.dot.gov; rrs.correspondence@fra.dot.gov

Bcc: joe.rutherford@djjournal.com

Where two different rail lines cross each other is there any regulation as to the speed the trains can travel at the crossing point?

I understand that municipalities can set train speed limits within their city limits, but was told that the Federal Railroad Administration sets the speed limit at the point where two separate rail lines cross each other, and that the limit was 25 mph.

Is this correct?

Where in all your regulations is this posted if, in fact, it is correct.

Thanks for your help.

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May 10, 2009

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Mr. Claiborne Barnwell, P.E.
MDOT – Environmental Division
P. O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850

RE: Tupelo Railroad Relocation Study

Dear Mr. Barnwell:

Good to hear from you again, and thank you for your most comprehensive letter about the steps in the process that have gotten us to the present point over the last four plus years. However, your letter did not even mention the central point of my concern. Where and with who has this \$2,000,000 been spent? And, has it all been spent? Or do we have a balance still available in the account?

I am pretty sure that I speak for the majority of the people in Tupelo when I repeat what I said in my first letter. We do not think that we have gotten very much for the expenditure of \$2,000,000, and only by knowing in detail where, with whom, and how the money was spent will we be able to make a determination about the results that are being presented to the citizens of Tupelo.

I was given a copy of the minutes of the meeting with the Mill Village residents and after reading them carefully I am even more confused. They state that the elevation of the railroad will take place between Church Street and Crosstown. Does the proposed elevation of the railroad not cover all the intersections in Tupelo from Jackson Street on the western end to Eason Blvd. on the eastern end? The minutes talk about only 2.8 miles of elevated tracks. This would not seem long enough to solve the grade crossing problems at all the intersections within Tupelo. Could you clarify this point for me?

Also the proposal to elevate the tracks would mean the relocation of the rail switchyard. Where will this switchyard be relocated to under your single solution proposal? And speaking of a single solution, you are careful to always mention the No-Build Alternative, as if you were proposing two solutions, but isn't the No-Build Alternative more properly called the Do-Nothing Alternative?

I also do not completely understand the reason that the speed cannot be increased to 40 m.p.h. Certainly somewhere in the country trains go across switches and other tracks at 40 m.p.h. or even faster. I do understand the sharp curve just east of the crossing with the other railroad, but don't see what the actual crossing has to do with the curve, which I feel could be made less sharp. And no one here in Tupelo would care how fast the trains

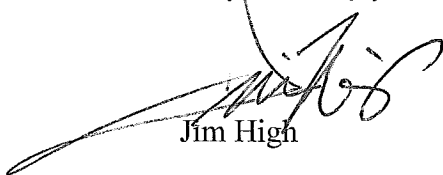
would go on an elevated track. They would no longer be a problem for traffic regardless of their speed or lack thereof, if they were elevated over the roads.

I also challenge your assertion that the public overwhelmingly supported the viaduct alternative. First, 35 people voting in a town of 35,000 residents is not a viable sample, and second, I attended that meeting and know from personal experience that most of the attendees were from the county where at the time you were proposing routes all over the place. They, of course, did not want the trains in their area, and so they voted for the solution that left them in the middle of Tupelo. Sort of a "not in my backyard" attitude and vote, in my opinion.

Let me also take this opportunity to say what I did not say in my other letter. I believe that my suggested route along the north side of Hwy 78 from Belden to the Natchez Trace where the railroad would transition to a trestle as it passes over Hwy 78, Gloster Street, Hwy 45, and the other railroad, then turning south and running still elevated along side Hwy 45 crossing over Main Street and Eason Blvd. before coming back to ground level is the **BEST POSSIBLE PERMANENT SOLUTION** for totally solving Tupelo's railroad problem for all time. I've been told that MDOT feels that wetland issues and Indian lands issues would prevent consideration of this route. But since it follows your two highways for about 90% of this route and is on a trestle in the bottomlands, I find it hard to understand what the problem really is, except that it might be hard to pick this solution, which is free, when \$2,000,000 of taxpayer money was spent on something that is not as good.

Sooner or later a full detailed accounting of the expenditures of this study will be made public. Sooner will be a lot better than later, and I encourage the cooperation of MDOT in this regard.

Very sincerely yours,



Jim High

Senator Roger Wicker
Senator Thad Cochran
Northern District MDOT Commissioner Bill Minor
MDOT Executive Director Butch Brown
City of Tupelo Mayor Ed Neelly
Tupelo City Council President Burdell Jones
Mississippi State Auditor Stacey Pickering
Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal